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鉛色パラドックス

Still,
my bosses
regard him
quite highly
being all
"He's a good
guy" and "He's
thoughtful,"
and "He does
good work

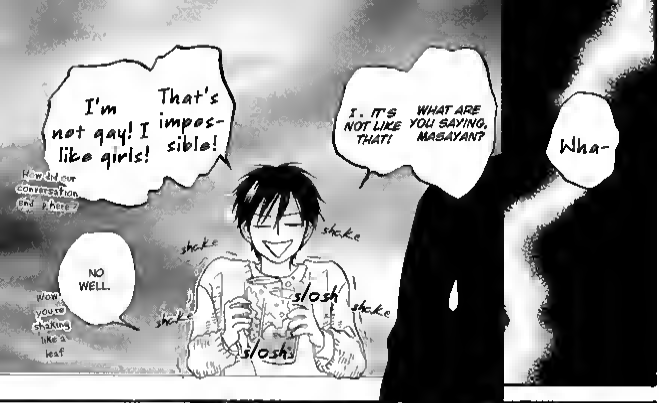
But I only
knew him as
the insociable
guy at work

According to
the girl who
dumped me and
the female
employees
of our
company, he's
"cool", "kind"
and "like a
prince".

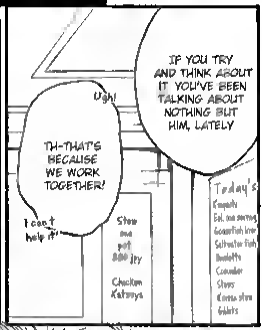
Kaburagi
Motoharu (25).
I've heard
various
information
about him,
before.

Logic.
02
APD

OH...
IF THAT'S THE CASE,
THEN YOU'VE ALSO BEEN TAKEN IN, YOU KNOW?


I'm not gay! I like girls!
That's impossible!
How did our conversation end up here
NO WELL.
Wow, you're shaking like a leaf
shake
shake
shake
shake
slosh
slosh
I.. IT'S NOT LIKE THAT!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MASAYA?
Wha-

YOU'RE WRONG!
WITH A POUNDING HEART AND EVERYTHING
BUT WHEN YOU GET HOME YOU'RE STILL THINKING ABOUT HIM, RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I WAS SAYING, MAYBE I'M DEVELOPING A HEART CONDITION, ALL RIGHT?
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT WHETHER I SHOULD GET MYSELF CHECKED OUT!
BUT STILL WITH THE HEART PALPITATIONS RIGHT?


IF YOU TRY AND THINK ABOUT IT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT NOTHING BUT HIM, LATELY
Ugh!
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE WE WORK TOGETHER!
I can't help it!
Today's
Gomoku
Eel, raw shrimp
Grasshopper broth
Saltwater fish
Omelette
Cucumber
Shiso
Kinme shiso
Goldeye

BUT Y'KNOW, NOW THAT I'VE HEARD YOUR STORY ONLY ONE RESPONSE COMES TO MIND
SOMEHOW, I'M THINKING...
...WHAT
ONOE.

I MEAN, YOU EVEN SAID BEFORE I OPENED THE SHOP...
THAT YOU HAD SOMETHING YOU HAD TO ABSOLUTELY TALK ABOUT WITH ME SO I THOUGHT...

YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH KABURAGI.
And for that reason...
THE HELL ARE YOU SAYING! HEY!
ENOUGH! MASAYAN. YOU DUMB-ASS!
HEY!
bam

My friend having said something truly weird...
I became extremely uneasy.

ARE YOU DEAF!?
What are you a prize idiot?
..HUUHH?
What'd you say!

HUH?

DID MY WEIRD PULSE RATE JUST KICK IN?
EH... WHY?
but that's already an illness!
I'M FINE WITH IT EITHER WAY
WELL THERE'S NOTHING TO STAKE OUT THIS TIME AROUND...

YEP WHAT HE SAID ONCE
TODAY'S INTERVIEW AND PICTURE TAKING CAN BE HAD IN ONE SWOOP
KABU SAID HE'D GO ALONE BUT WHAT ABOUT YOU?

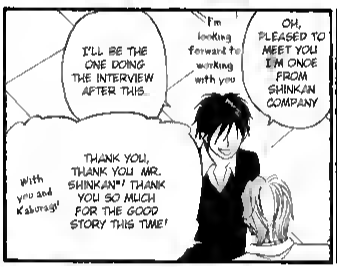
I'LL GET MATERIAL THAT'S ONE HUNDRED TIMES BETTER THAN HIS!
I'LL GO! I'LL BE AT THE PERIMETER
HMM THAT'S RIGHT!
WHAT'S THAT?

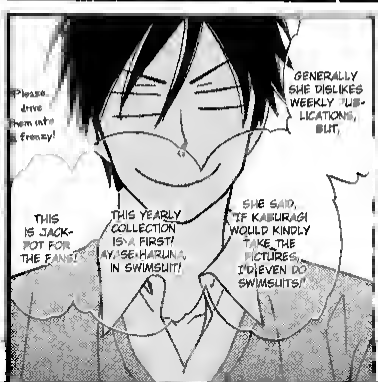
WELL THERE'S THE GRAVURE... BUT I SPECIALLY WANT TO GO TO YAMATO IRON & STEEL DISCREETLY
I've got a real good feeling about this! I don't want to sabotage it
!
Annoyed

THE TWO OF YOU BETTER GO
THE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ALSO SAID SOMETHING TO THE EFFECT OF SHOWING ONCE THE ROPES FASTER
UH...
IS THAT REALLY ALL RIGHT?
NATURALLY!
Just set aside worrying, or not worrying
When it comes to work I definitely won't lose!
I'M AYASE HARUNA!
I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU TODAY!
When he said "gravure" he really did mean a gravure (idol's) pictures!
That's why I said.
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, KABURAGI!
Embrace

T/N 1- Japan's "gravure idol" is usually a female model who in most cases emphasizes her sexual attractiveness and often models in swimsuits or lingerie

YEAH LONG TIME NO SEE HARUNA-CHAN
YOU DOING GOOD?
YES! I'M HAPPY THAT WE CAN WORK TOGETHER AGAIN!
LONG TIME NO SEE!?
REALLY? ME TOO!
What! His other ego came out!
HEY
WHAT?
WHAT ARE YOU? YOU STILL TAKE PICTURES LIKE THESE UNTIL NOW?
HUH? NO. THIS TIME IT JUST SO HAPPENED
Haruna-chan!
OH HEY!
Semsone's calling you!
LATER, OKAY?
OH, YES!
AND THAT'S HOW IT WAS THAT TIME
I WAS INTRODUCED BY YOUR EX WHEN I WAS COVERING AN EVENT.
But in the end, I let that info slip by
HUH?
GOD! THAT SURPRISED ME!
whisper
WE MET LAST YEAR WHEN I WAS GETTING A SCOOP ON HER
thump


I'LL BE THE ONE DOING THE INTERVIEW AFTER THIS.
I'm looking forward to working with you
OH, PLEASED TO MEET YOU I'M ONCE FROM SHINKAN COMPANY
With you and Kaburagi!
THANK YOU, THANK YOU MR. SHINKAN~! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE GOOD STORY THIS TIME!


Please drive them into a frenzy!
GENERALLY SHE DISLIKES "WEEKLY PUBLICATIONS", BUT,
THIS IS JACKPOT FOR THE FANS!
THIS YEARLY COLLECTION IS A FIRST! AYASE HARUNA IN SWIMSUIT!
SHE SAID, "IF KABURAGI WOULD KINDLY TAKE THE PICTURES, I'D EVEN DO SWIMSUITS."

?
Why Kaburagi?
BEFORE, WHEN HE WAS GATHERING DATA ON OTAKU, IT SEEMS LIKE OUR AYASE HIT HIM, BUT SHE'S REALLY TAKEN A FANCY TO HIM!
OHHH, HAVEN'T YOU HEARD THE STORY?

*T/N it's not uncommon in japan to call a person by the company they work for

...Wait, what the hell am I doing?
Those clothes and his perfume ...everything is just this swindler, being prepared!
In short,
I thought he was coming off a different air than usual!
OH, JEEZ, KABURAGI! STOP!
ALL RIGHT? DON'T STRESS OUT, I'M NOT GOING TO DO ANYTHING.
Haha!
Not now, anyway.
But even if it's fabricated, he sure knows how to work that cool, unruffled look in front of a swimsuit model!
That's right before, didn't he say he used [illegible] body to [illegible] erial? [illegible] mean he's gotten used to [illegible] ming women?
Invitation
You're so beautiful, Haruna-chan!
Ahaha!
Twohaa
What with that kind of [illegible] character?
THIS GUY HE'S ALWAYS SERIOUS IN WORK NO MATTER WHAT

If
thump
I'm his partner at work
Would he also do that?
..Um
ONOE!
gasp

That rattled me...
OH!
S... SURE!
WAHH!
U-yes!?
Clatter
CAN YOU BRING ME THE LENS INSIDE THAT BAG?
Yes?
Gotta change...
What was I thinking? Just now... what was I thinking?
shook me up
Hurry up!
Clonk
slip
WHICH IS IT? THIS-
OH Y-YEAH!
wobble wobble
Crack

I'm sorry, I... okay? I applodized already all right!?
GOOD THING IT WASN'T THE ONE I WAS GOING TO USE.
...UNBELIEVABLE.
It's completely broken.
Thank you for your hard work!
Until next time!
Can't we just cut that from our expenses...
SPEAKING OF...
WHAT WERE YOU THINKING ABOUT EARLIER?
DON'T YOU SAY THAT!
YOU REQUEST A NEW ONE!
This is worth 170 000 yen!
What?
AND YOU SAID THAT EVERYTHING MATERIAL DISAPPEARS ANYWAY.
THAT'S COMPANY EQUIPMENT RIGHT? CAN'T YOU JUST REQUEST A NEW ONE?
*$1600

WHAT?
If that's it I totally get you.
WELL, THERE WAS AN IDOL UNDRESSING IN FRONT OF YOU.
WH...
WHY?
YOU WERE THINKING NAUGHTY THOUGHTS, WEREN'T YOU?
WHAT?
jump
ARE YOU GETTING USED TO THE JOB?
SOME-THING THE MATTER?
That's all.
That's right
That's normal use it.
NOTHING

WELL!
NEXT FINDING OUT ABOUT YAMATO TEKKOU
Very famous.
RIGHT
You're fallen in love, right?
Damn it Curse you, Masayan!
?
ALL RIGHT! NEXT, NEXT UP!
Excuse me, I'll be going ahead!!
Thanks for your hard work!
THEIR MANAGEMENT HAS HEAVY-DUTY SECURITY, RIGHT?
GOOD THING YOU WERE ABLE TO GET AN APPOINT-MENT!
I hear that [illegible] though... they've got a problem, the actual state of affairs is unknown!

YEAH, I GOT ONE
SO DON'T MESS IT UP!
I WON'T.

HERE PUT THIS ON YOUR PHONE

SWEAR DOWN!
THAT MATCH WAS AWESOME!
BUT DURING THE GAME I SERIOUSLY DIDN'T THINK WE'D WIN!
YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT, YEAH!
AN' THAT TIME...PERFECT TWIN...I WAS IN MY HOMETOWN, SO I SAW IT AT THE BASEBALL STADIUM!
SERIOUSLY!? I'M JEALOUS!
YEAH, LIKE, YOU WOULDN'T THINK THAT KANEKO'D PUT A "GOODBYE HIT" IN!
AN' THE PRESSURE AT THE END OF THE GAME, UNNNN- BEARABLE!
A new Character Came out...!
And with Kansai ben!

T/N Kansai-ben, Kansai-Osaka, Kyoto Hara, Also Wakayama, etc) dialect. Their expressions differ from Kanto (Tokyo, Saitama, Chiba), for example, Hontou sasuga ni (Really?).

Wa-ahh!
EH?
HEY
Gr-Gb
Yawn
OH, 'SCUSE ME FOR A MOMENT
Going to the toilet
TAKE YOUR TIME!
BUT NOW I TOTALLY GET WHY THEY LOVE HIM
HE GETS THEIR HOBBIES
Wha...
What!?
SHH...
WHAT'RE YOU IGNORING US FOR? JOIN THE CONVO, MAN!
That guy hates people who don't go with the flow
Whisper
YOU JUST HAVE TO CONNECT NONCOMMITTALLY
I MIGHT SAY SOMETHING STUPID!
BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT BASEBALL!
Whisper
Whisper
And with that tone and face?
His breath...!
H...
OH, YEAH. TRUE. BECAUSE I'M PRETENDING.
Leg- go!
AND ALSO, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A BASEBALL FAN!

clatter
Oh! We're back!
And he's from Kansa
I can't see
He'll do even that?
HE'S KINDA GOOD!
HUH?
Did you need up on that here?
ANYWAY RIGHT NOW ANYTHING'LL DO SO BUCK UP!
MM WELL I NORMALLY WATCH IT ON TV. THERE-ABOUTS...
Plus I'm home
Kansai
What?
Even "taking someone in" can signify hard work and talent
When I see him like this
jolt
touch
pinch

*T/N: Torakichi someone who's crazy about the Hanshin Tigers a Kansai baseball team

I can follow up so it's fine, but
This is bad
Everything before was completely my fault. It's utterly inexcusable.
Anyway, I'm useless. I'm the #1 ant and the #1 grasshopper in the ant and grasshopper. I'm a maggot. I'm simply living as an obstruction.
depressed
UH
NO
I wouldn't go quite that far
This is really bad. I'm depressed
It's not a problem of winning or losing
you
IS THERE SOMETHING WRONG?

LIKE IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING YOU WANT TO SAY, SAY IT
CAUSE NO MATTER WHAT, IT LOOKS LIKE I CAN'T NOT GET ON WITH YOU AT WORK, EVEN FOR A SHORT WHILE
IF YOU JUST STAY LIKE THAT, IT BOTHERS ME
It bothers ..
IT'S NOTHING.
LIAR.
shudder
THEN WHY ARE YOU...

AH..

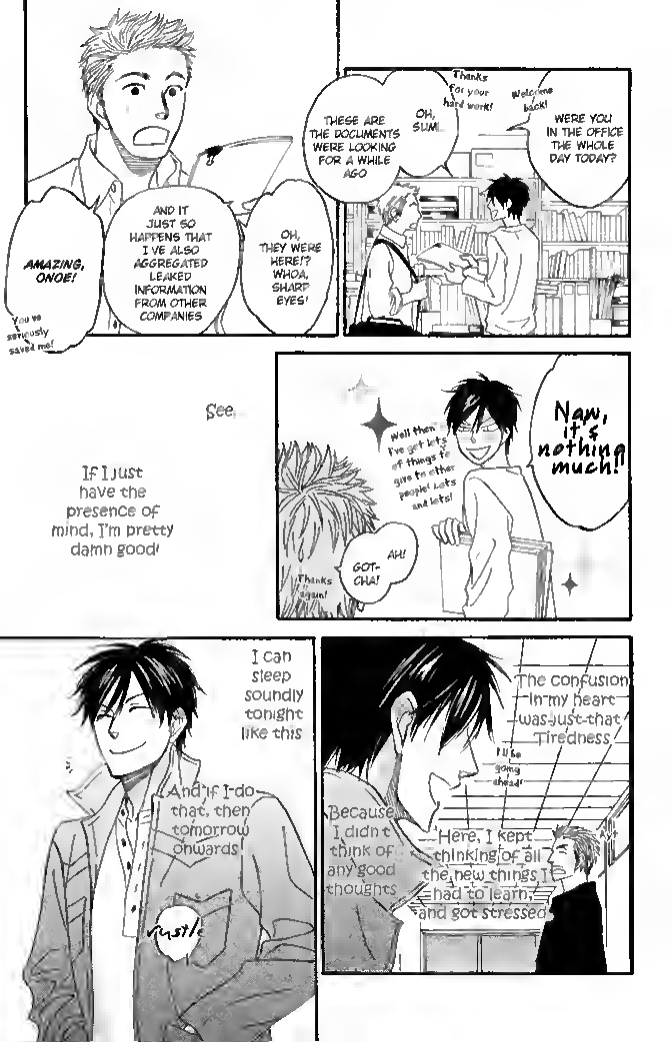
AH, HEY!
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?
HOME! BY TRAIN!
whip
UH...
...I SAID, IT'S NOTHING, ALL RIGHT!?
Hey!
ENOUGH!
I WON'T BOTHER YOU ANYMORE!
WHAA-AT...?
Seriously?
What do I do?

I can't go on like this.
I can't even control myself
What am I doing?
If I don't do something, and fast.
HUH?
I'M PUTTING TOGETHER THE COLLECTED MATERIAL FOR THE ARTICLE BY MYSELF!
I HANDLE THINGS DIFFERENTLY THAN KABURAGI'
YOU DECIDED THIS
TAP
YOU HEARD ME!

Did these two fight at last?
UH
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH YOU AND KABU?
Can't you stop it with that kind of thing! Anyway didn't you say yesterday that it was time to do whichever, Kiuchi?
I want to get back to what I know! If I don't, I might mess something else up again!
I might break an actual camera the next time!
Why are you shout-ing your failures?
WELL, KEEP DOING THAT OVERTIME SO IT CAN BE DEDUCTED FROM YOUR SALARY
BUT ARE YOU REALLY AT YOUR WITS' END?
ALL RIGHT HAVE IT YOUR WAY. BUT TRY AND HURRY UP WASHING THINGS OUT SOON
I know
WELL, ENOUGH OF THAT FOR TODAY
200,000?
That's a lot
Organize the documents too, would ya?
I'm just so confused at the moment...
Mmmh
Ya...

If I can regain my composure, we should return to how we were.
thump
thump
thump
If I put some distance
Oh, Kabu about that.
Once hasn't come in yet?
Eh?

SHUKAN
I did it!
Goal achieved!
Oh, Once


AMAZING, ONOE!
You've seriously saved me!
AND IT JUST SO HAPPENS THAT I'VE ALSO AGGREGATED LEAKED INFORMATION FROM OTHER COMPANIES
OH, THEY WERE HERE!? WHOA, SHARP EYES!
THESE ARE THE DOCUMENTS WERE LOOKING FOR A WHILE AGO
OH, SUMI
Thanks for your hard work!
Welcome back!
WERE YOU IN THE OFFICE THE WHOLE DAY TODAY?
Naw, it's nothing much!
Well then I've got lots of things to give to other people! Lots and lots!
AH!
GOT-CHA!
Thanks again!
See,
If I just have the presence of mind, I'm pretty damn good!
I can sleep soundly tonight like this
And if I do that, then tomorrow onwards!
Rustle
The confusion in my heart was just that
Tiredness
I'll be going ahead!
Because I didn't think of any good thoughts
Here, I kept thinking of all the new things I had to learn, and got stressed

Candy from Kabu
Why am I still carrying this around?
And if you say it like that somehow I don't know what to do
DAMMIT! I'LL THROW THIS AWAY
Trash can
EHHH, ISN'T IT ALL RIGHT?
HMM. I STILL HAVE SOME ERRANDS TO RUN TODAY
WHAT TIME WILL YOU FINISH?
And
that's
thump
Kaburagi

I'll make meat & potato stew
OH, I GUESS MY HOUSE IS FINE...
OHH, THAT'S NICE
Sakura...!?
OKAY THEN, CAN I GO TO YOUR HOUSE NEXT TIME?
NO, NO THAT'S NOT NECESSARY
I CAN KILL TIME UNTIL THEN, I CAN WAIT
You bastard! What you said was entirely different!
BUT THAT'S FOR NEXT TIME, OKAY?
BUT WHEN'S THAT GOING TO BE?
HMM... AFTER A HUNDRED YEARS?
Ahaha! Ohhh, Kasuga's so funny!
You...
clench
"BUT WE'RE NOT DATING."
See them as flirty-flirty
Nah, I can't
Oh, wait!

GO...
...TO HELL!
Ow!
WHAT
Boy
WHAT IS HE
OH! KAEU-RAGI
YOU ALSO CARRY THESE AROUND RIGHT?
ISN'T THIS YOURS?
...HUH?
Hey!
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
Rush

This sucks
What am I doing?
Did I have a weird look on my face?
Oh, yuck! It's melted!
What am I so angry about?
Maybe Kaburagi had some doubts about me and said it was nothing
It's got nothing to do with me
Isn't it fine, already, that he's going out with Sakurai?
10 M

Don't chase after me!
How'd you run so fast!?
You're just too slow.
WHY DO I HAVE TO GO TO HELL?
Tch!

Shut the fuck up, you liar.
A fight?
YOUR VOICE 'S TOO LOUD
C'MERE
THINGS SURE ARE GOING WELL WITH SAKURAI AREN'T THEY?

Wanna ? you listening?
AND HOW EXACTLY DID THAT BECOME "GOING WELL"?
OH, WHAT! WHAT!? YOU SAW EARLIER
SHE'S GOT THE RUN OF YOUR HOUSE, DOESN'T SHE!?
NO! SHE DOESN'T!
SHE WAS THE ONE WHO JUST SAID THAT SELFISHLY
AND ANYWAY

HAVEN'T WE ALREADY SETTLED THAT? WHY ARE YOU BRINGING IT UP AGAIN...
You...
I THOUGHT YOU WERE KINDA WEIRD... HAS THAT BEEN ON YOUR MIND THE ENTIRE TIME!?
YOU WHAT?
...say nothing but irresponsible things!
SURE, ABOUT 90% OF ME IS PROBABLY JUST A FACADE BUT...
...and I don't know what you're talking about, but...
You'll be Agatha Christie, you will!
SOMEDAY YOU'LL BE FOUND OUT AND EVERYONE'LL RUN OUT OF PATIENCE FOR YOU AND YOU'LL BE ALL ALONE!

I HAVE NEVER ONCE LIED TO YOU!
I know full well I've been taken in...
But still, it pains me.
Because this guy didn't think of it at all.
I ONLY DO THAT TO PEOPLE TO MAKE THEM LIKE ME
...GAHH! That's true!!

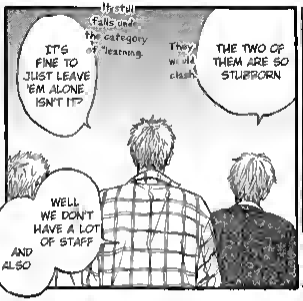
And I like this bastard
ENOUGH
I GET IT
SAY IT HONESTLY, C'MON
ONE
I KNEW THERE WAS SOMETHING YOU WANTED TO SAY TO ME
WAS ALL THAT TALK OF "NOT BOTHERING ME ANYMORE" AN EXCUSE TO LOAF AROUND?
I WASN'T LOAFING!
I just did other work!
struggle
struggle
struggle
It's not that I'm heading towards any good direction
But like I said
I don't!
Jeez!
OKAY SO WHY'D YOU AVOID ME TODAY?

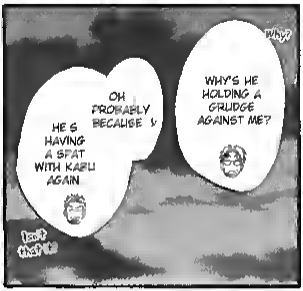
...are my hands
my eyes
my ears...
But still,
Why...
ONOE!
my ENTIRE body responding to him?
Let go!
AH...
EH...

smooch
...
...Y...
WHY!?
Why
NO-UH
...
Y...
blushh
WHA...

punch
I WAS WONDERING... WHAT KIND OF REACTION YOU'D HAVE
SHIT...
You're seriously the worst!
OW..
OW!
He's crying.
Why don't you just go off and DIE!
bawling
step
step
step

I'd've prefer red.
To have also been taken in by appearances.
If that were the case, I could say that whatever it is I'm feeling is mistaken
HUH? ONCE?
YOU'RE STILL HERE?
I thought you'd go home a while ago.
We're going to grab a bite to eat. You want to come?
Huh?
I've got an axe to grind with you too, editor-in-chief!


It still falls under the category of "learning."
They would clash
IT'S FINE TO JUST LEAVE 'EM ALONE ISN'T IT?
THE TWO OF THEM ARE SO STUBBORN
WELL WE DON'T HAVE A LOT OF STAFF AND ALSO


Why?
WHY'S HE HOLDING A GRUDGE AGAINST ME?
OH PROBABLY BECAUSE
HE'S HAVING A SPAT WITH KARU AGAIN
Isn't that it?

SOME-DAY THEIR FRICTION WILL RESULT IN PROGRESS
Well, let's hope.
Goddammit Just you wait, Kaburagi Motoharu I'll show you!

I will definitely, someday, beat you!
AND THE STRIFE GOIN' LIES...
Dammit

DEAR COMIC 265

1

夏目イサク

Isaku NATSUME

飴色パラドックス

9784403663031

1929979005719

ISBN978-4-403-66303-1

C9979 ¥571E

新書館 定価600円 本体571円

雑誌47523-03

SHINSHOKAN

A change in the stakeout team throws Onoe, reporter for a weekly magazine, together with his contemporary, Kaburagi, a photographer. Onoe secretly considers Kaburagi his rival, and Kaburagi's haphazard way of doing things goes against Onoe's strong sense of ethics- there's nothing but conflict between them. But, in joint pursuit of a scandal, the two of them begin to care about each other...? Introducing the main fighting couple!

nakama presents

Amber Paradox

by Natsume Isaku

Credits

scanner: pgrape
translator: firecrest
editor: aripie
qcer: aripie